The House re-assembled after lunch at two of the clock,

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

SUPPLEMENTRY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2004-05

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2004-05. .

NAMING OF A NEW AIRPORT AT SHAMSHABAD IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Contd.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, in the morning, while responding to our query, the hon. Minister had said that the decision was taken in 1992 and our Government had revised it in 1999. I would like to place on record what happened in 1999. In 1999, in keeping with the tradition of not changing the name of a particular person, the Government at that time had decided to name it as the Hyderabad Airport, to keep the international airport in the name of Rajiv Gandhi and the Domestic Terminal in the name of N. T. Ramaraoji. What we have been asking since morning is this: Why don't you continue the same?

The issue now is that the Government has decided to name the airport fully in the name of Rajiv Gandhi, omitting the name of Shri N. T. Ramaraoji. That is highly objectionable. There is a widespread reaction throughout the State. People are agitated. This will unnecessary again provoke tensions in the State. The feelings of the people are hurt. Those feelings will be exhibited in a different manner. What I am suggesting is that the Government can, even at this stage, reconsider the entire matter. We never expect this sort of thing to happen to a great leader of the stature of Shri N. T. Ramaraoji.

I would like to recall, when Andhra pride was affected earlier, and the Chief Minister was insulted, the Andhras had revolted; and they had to face the consequences. The same thing is going to happen. I caution them, in all humility, not to go in for such a misadventure and see to it that the name of Shri N. T. Ramaraoji is really restored. Or, if they want to have the airport in the name of Shri Narasimha Raoji, and then keep the names of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri N.T. Ramaraoji also - for that also - we have no problem. It is for the Government to respond.